

BATTALION CHIEF

DEFINITION

To perform responsible management, technical, and administrative work in commanding and coordinating fire suppression, hazardous materials investigation, inspection, prevention and personnel training activities; and to provide highly responsible and technical staff assistance.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a management level position in the Fire Department.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

General direction is provided by a Deputy Fire Chief and/or Fire Chief. Responsibilities include the direct and indirect supervision of Fire Captains and other subordinate level personnel.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Depending upon assignment, duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Assists in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies and priorities.
2. Directs and supervises forces in the suppression of fires and in the control of incidents involving hazardous chemicals and other materials; directs and supervises forces during Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI); ascertains the need for and type of equipment necessary to counteract the emergency; makes technical decisions as to the best methods of extinguishing fires and controlling incidents after observing the developing activities and receiving oral reports from command officers.
3. Administers programs such as fire code enforcement, hazardous materials regulations, apparatus and equipment maintenance, communications, objective based planning, or water supply.
4. Makes periodic inspections of personnel and the general condition of equipment, apparatus, and fire stations.
5. Participates with Captains in the training of personnel and serves as an instructor for specialized in-service training courses.
6. Responds to fires and other life and property threatening emergencies and supervises the deployment and coordination of emergency resources in the mitigation of the emergency.
7. Identifies training needs, and recommends how needs can be met.
8. Develops, maintains, and coordinates a comprehensive fire and emergency operations training program.

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9. Assists and participates in the preparation and administration of the department budget.
10. Performs research and makes recommendations regarding capital purchases and facility improvements.
11. Prepares and maintains a variety of records and reports.
12. Administers and enforces Fire Department regulations, personnel rules and memoranda of understanding.
13. Represents the City in the community and at professional meetings as required.
14. Coordinates Fire Department activities with other City departments and divisions, and with outside agencies.
15. Supervises, trains, and evaluates assigned staff.
16. Serves as Acting Deputy Fire Chief or Fire Chief as assigned.
17. Provides administrative support to Deputy Fire Chief or Fire Chief in the areas of labor relations, disaster preparedness, training, program development, budgeting, hazardous material management, and disaster preparedness education.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge and Abilities:

- A. Knowledge of principles and practices of organization, administration, budget and personnel management and training.
- B. Knowledge of modern firefighting and incident command system operations, rescue principles, practices, techniques, and procedures, including the operation and maintenance requirements of the various types of fire apparatus and equipment.
- C. Knowledge of mechanical, chemical, and related characteristics of a wide variety of flammable and explosive materials and objects.
- D. Knowledge of fire prevention and hazardous materials regulation principles, practices, and procedures.

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- E. Knowledge of Federal, State, and local laws, codes and regulations pertaining to fire suppression, prevention, hazardous materials and personnel training.
- F. Knowledge of labor relations practices and procedures.
- G. Knowledge of principles, practices and procedures related to disaster preparedness and emergency education.
- H. Ability to make life and death decisions in an emergency.
- I. Ability to exercise excellent judgment under extreme duress.
- J. Ability to make effective use of personnel, equipment and apparatus in emergency situations.
- K. Ability to instruct effectively, maintain discipline, stimulate interest and command respect of subordinates.
- L. Ability to analyze, develop, and implement solutions essential to the control of fire suppression and hazardous material problems.
- M. Ability to conduct a thorough fact finding investigation and enforce regulations firmly, tactfully, and impartially.
- N. Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, orally and in writing.
- O. Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- P. Ability to develop and maintain good employee morale, motivation, discipline and employee relations within the department.

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Any combination equivalent to experience and education that could likely provide the required knowledge and abilities would be qualifying. Experience and judgment will be evaluated throughout the examination process. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

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Experience:

Two years command experience at a level equivalent to that of Fire Captain in the Hayward Fire Department. Period of time spent in an acting capacity in the rank of Fire Captain may also be applied towards meeting minimum qualifications. However, such credit will be limited to periods of acting time as a Fire Captain which are thirty (30) consecutive calendar days or longer.

Education:

Equivalent to completion of twelfth grade supplemented by college level courses in Fire Science, Public or Business Administration or related field such as Engineering, Fire Management or Fire Protection. A Bachelor's Degree in related field is desirable.

Accredited Fire Science coursework may be accepted in lieu of experience at the rate of ten (10) semester units for one (1) month experience up to a maximum of 6 months.

Completion of State Fire Officer Certification courses and coursework in incident command is desirable.

LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE

Possession of a valid Class C California Driver's License.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Essential duties require the following mental and/or physical abilities and work environment:

Work is performed in an indoor and field environment. Work may be performed in high, precarious places, confined and awkward spaces or in high traffic areas. May be exposed to traffic hazards, equipment hazards, fire hazards, extreme heat, smoke, carcinogens, bio-hazards, adverse weather conditions, temperature and noise extremes, dusts, odors, toxic, caustic chemicals and pathogenic substances. Subject to unusual fatigue and high level of stress from irregular working hours/ incident call activity. Requires the ability to lift, bend, climb (stairs, ladders, fence, etc), walk (on normal, uneven and slippery surfaces), sit, stand for various timeframes. Must lift/carry up to 10 pounds frequently and up to 100 pounds occasionally. Must be able to drive and operate a Code-3 vehicle. Must be able to use hands for fingering and handling objects, tools or controls, writing. Requires the strength and stamina to perform fire suppression duties. Must be able to make critical decisions and direct others under extreme conditions. Must effectively communicate verbally and in writing.

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PROBATIONARY PERIOD: One Year.

1005 (40hr)/1004 (56hr)CS91

September 1971

Revised December 1991

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AAP GROUP: 11

FPPC STATUS: Designated

FLSA STATUS: Exempt